## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 DODE-00 /025 W

-----270245Z 055604 /62

R 261340Z MAY 77 FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0797 INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO CINCUSNAVEUR COMSIXTHFLT

CONFIDENTIAL ALEXANDRIA 0412

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EWWT, EG, PBIO

SUBJECT: US NAVY AND ALEXANDRIA SHIPYARD

REF: CAIRO 8731, ALEXANDRIA 0397

1. YESTERDAY, 25 MAY AND 24 HOURS AFTER AHMED EFFAT'S VISIT (ALEX REFTEL), CAPT AHMED MAHMOUD TEWFIK, BOARD DIRECTOR OF ALEXANDRIA SHIPYARD AND AUTHOR OF LETTER SEEKING USN USE OF FACILITIES (CAIRO REFTEL), CALLED ON DPO AND ECON/COMMERCIAL OFFICER VALERGA.

DPO LISTENED TO TEWFIK AND REPLIED NONCOMMITALLY AS TEWFIK WENT THROUGH SAME LITANY AS EFFAT. ON MY INSTRUCTIONS, HOWEVER, HE PROBED FURTHER ON PRESENT STATUS SHIPYARD ACTIVITY AND ON MANAGEMENT'S

AUTHORITY TO OFFER FACILITIES TO US NAVY. DPO DID SAY I WOULD BE TALKING TO EFFAT WITH REPLY TO HIS EARLIER QUERY.

2. MOST INTERESTING REVELATION WAS THAT UNDER AEGIS NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL, RETIRED ARMY GENERAL HASSAN EL-SAYED, YARD IS TAKING NEW INITIATIVE ACTIVELY SEEK USN USAGE. ACCORDING TO TEWFIK, APPROVAL HAS BEEN INDICATED BY MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, BUT THE MINISTER DOES NOT AT THIS TIME WISH TO PUSH FOR PRIMIN/PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL CONSIDERATION UNLESS HE HAS RENEWED INDICATION OF USG/USN INTEREST. CONFIDENTIAL

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- 3. IT WAS OBVIOUS TEWFIK CALLED AT CONGEN ON URGING OF EFFAT, AND BY LATE AFTERNOON OBVIOUS THAT TEWFIK HAD REPORTED BACK TO EFFAT AS LATTER CALLED ME FOR APPOINTMENT TODAY.
- 4. SUBSTANCE CAIRO REFTEL REVIEWED WITH EFFAT. HE ABSORBED THAT AND THEN SWITCHED TO DISCUSSION OF CIVILIAN SHIP USE OF YARD. HE

WAS TOLD OF PREVIOUS CONGEN SUBMISSIONS THROUGH DEPTS STATE AND COMMERCE SEEKING INTEREST US SHIP OWNERS. I SUGGESTED YARD MIGHT FOLLOW UP WITH PERSONAL LETTERS AT HIGH EXECUTIVE LEVEL TO THOSE SHIPPING LINES ALREADY REGULARLY USING ALEXANDRIA PORT (PRUDENTIAL, LYKES, AMEXPORT, ETC.) HE SEEMED RELUCTANT FOCUS ON WHETHER MININDUSTRY SHOULD SEEK "HIGHEST LEVEL" APPROVAL FOR USN USE WHICH WOULD INDICATE POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS HAD RPT HAD BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT (I DID NOT MENTION TEWFIK VIEW MINISTER NEEDED ENCOURAGEMENT).

- 5. ON DEPARTING, EFFAT EMPHASIZED THAT ALL HE SOUGHT NOW WAS LAY GROUNDWORK FOR USN USE OF YARD "AT SOME FUTURE DATE", GETTING ADMINISTRATIVE ROUTINES ACCOMPLISHED SO THAT IF IT IS DECIDED UTILIZE FACILITIES, WE WOULD NOT WASTE ADDITIONAL MONTHS IN BUREAUCRATIC EXCHANGES. HE WORRIED OUT LOUD AS TO WHAT BEST APPROACH FOR HIM WOULD BE, TO FONMIN FAHMY OR TO "OFFICE OF PRESIDENT". HE INDICATED HE MIGHT SOUND OUT ASAMA EL BAZ, FAHMY'S OFFICE DIRECTOR.
- 6. COMMENT -- OBVIOUSLY REGENERATED INTEREST IN USN UTILIZATION ALEXANDRIA SHIPYARD HAS STARTED AT LOW, LOCAL LEVEL AGAIN. WE LEAVE IT TO DEPT/EMBASSY WHETHER TO ENCOURAGE IT.
- 7. FOR CAIRO -- I SHALL BE SENDING IN FOLLOWING TELEGRAM SOME THOUGHTS I HAVE ON EFFAT'S ROLE AND MOTIVES THIS EXERCISE FOR AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS AND ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS. WE WILL LATER PASS JOINT VIEWS ON TO OTHER ADDRESSEES IF OF VALUE. CHASE

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a **Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: NAVAL SHIPS, CARGO SHIPS, ACCESS TO PORTS, SHIPYARDS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 26-May-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

Disposition Event:
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ALEXAN00412
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

**Document Unique ID: 00** 

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

**Expiration:** Film Number: D770189-0640

Format: TEL From: ALEXANDRIA Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770516/aaaaanvk.tel

Line Count: 89 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: 53a7bc89-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION PM

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 77 CAIRO 8731, 77 ALEXANDRIA 397

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 19-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2363269 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: US NAVY AND ALEXANDRIA SHIPYARD

TAGS: EWWT, MILI, EG, US

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/53a7bc89-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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